



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

Pêches et Océans  
Canada

Arctic Region  
Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program  
301-5204 50<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Yellowknife, NT  
X1A 1E2

Région de l'Arctique  
Programme de protection du poisson et de son habitat  
301-5204 50<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Yellowknife, NT  
X1A 1E2

*Your file*      *Votre référence*  
2AM-MRY1325 / 2AM-MRY2540

*Our file*      *Notre référence*  
07-HCAA-00050

July 16, 2025

Nunavut Water Board  
P.O. Box 119  
Gjoa Haven, NU  
X0B 1J0  
Via email to:

**Subject: Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation– 2024 QIA/NWB Annual Report for Operations of BIMC's Water Licence**

The Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program (the Program) of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) received your request on April 16, 2025 inviting parties to review and provide comments by July 16, 2025. DFO has reviewed the above 2024 Annual Report in regards to its mandate, i.e. the management, protection and conservation of fish and their habitats. Any comments received from DFO in this context does not relieve the proponent of obligations to respect all applicable federal legislation. DFO is generally agreeable with Baffinland's 2024 Annual Report and has the following comments or concerns to provide at this time.

DFO recommends that Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation follow DFO's Projects Near Water website that provides guidance for avoiding impacts to fish and fish habitat including [Standards and codes of practice \(dfo-mpo.gc.ca\)](https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/standards-codes-practice-codes-pratiques/index-eng.html) with Codes of Practice containing conditions and measures for managing risks to fish and fish habitat or Standards outlining how a specific management measure should be designed and implemented to achieve the objective. If the Standards and Codes of Practice cannot be followed, work in fish habitat or on watercourses that contribute to fish habitat should be submitted to DFO for review.

Works including the replacement and maintenance of crossing structures, the removal of material from waterbodies/watercourses such as abutments, and armour around waterbodies have the potential to impact fish and fish habitat.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this letter, please contact Paul Harper at our Yellowknife office at 867-444-0983, or by email at [Paul.Harper@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Paul.Harper@dfo-mpo.gc.ca). Please refer to the file number referenced above when corresponding with the Program.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Harper  
a/Senior Biologist  
Arctic Region  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Cc:  
José Audet-Lecouffe, Team Lead – Arctic Region, DFO



Table 1: DFO Comments on Baffinland's 2024 Annual Report for Operations BIMC's Water Licence

#	Document Name	Section Reference	Comment
DFO-1	2024 Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) and Nunavut Water Board (NWB) Annual Report for Operations; Appendix C1.1.; and Appendix C1.2.	7.3.8 Tote Road Monitoring Program	<p>In 2022, DFO took enforcement action and issued a <i>Corrective Measures Order</i>, pursuant to the <i>Fisheries Act</i>, requiring Baffinland to develop and submit a targeted Sediment and Erosion Control Plan and a Permanent Crossing Plan for crossings where sediment deposition and barriers to fish passage have previously been reported and identified. Baffinland had remediated 7 of the 20 crossings identified in the Corrective Measures Order in the winter of 2024. In the spring of 2024, it was determined by Baffinland that 2 of the rehabilitated crossings required complete re-designs while others required additional rehabilitation work in the summer of 2024.</p> <p>DFO conducted site visits of the Mary River Mine Site in July 2024, including inspections of crossings along the Tote Road. DFO found that many watercourse crossings on the Tote Road remain out of compliance with the federal <i>Fisheries Act</i> with sediment and erosion and fish passage concerns. DFO is planning site visits of the crossings in the summer of 2025.</p>
DFO-2	2024 Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) and Nunavut Water Board (NWB) Annual Report for Operations	Surface Water and Aquatic Ecosystems Monitoring Plan (SWAEMP)	<p>At the NWB Hearing for the renewal of Baffinland's Type A water licence, Baffinland committed to providing an updated SWAEMP, including an updated crossing list, within six months of the licence approval. DFO would like to note that renewal for water licence 2AM-MRY1325 was approved on June 09, 2025.</p> <p>DFO anticipates the updated SWAEMP to be shared prior to December 09, 2025.</p>
DFO-03	2024 Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) and Nunavut Water Board (NWB) Annual Report for Operations	Development of an Erosion and Sediment Control Training Program	<p>At the NWB Hearing for the renewal of Baffinland's Type A water licence (2AM-MRY1325), Baffinland Iron Mines committed to the development of an erosion and sediment control training program for the Mary River Mine. Baffinland indicated that the program would be rolled out in Q2 of 2025. DFO would like to request an update on this program.</p>